

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for locating an interventional device relative to the ostium of a branch vessel, comprising:

a sheath having proximal and distal ends, and a lumen extending therebetween, the sheath adapted to be affixed to an interventional device;

an ostial locator wire slidably disposed within the sheath, the ostial locator wire having a distal region that assumes an expanded configuration when extended from the distal end of the sheath and partially encircles the interventional device.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fastener for affixing the sheath to the interventional device.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the fastener comprises a thin flexible sheet configured to wrap around the interventional device.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the fastener comprises a clasp.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the clasp is adapted to be snap-fit or friction-fit into engagement with the interventional device.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the clasp is adapted to be affixed to the interventional device using a biocompatible adhesive.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expanded configuration has a diameter larger than a diameter of the ostium of the branch vessel.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein a section of the distal region that assumes the expanded configuration assumes a spiral shape.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein a section of the distal region that assumes the expanded configuration defines a portion of a disk, coil, sphere, cone, amphora or petalled-arrangement.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ostial locator wire further comprises an atraumatic tip.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ostial locator wire further comprises a tip having a lasso that assists in retaining the expanded configuration centered on the interventional device.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the interventional device is a stent delivery catheter includes a stent, and the spiral shape at least partially encircles the stent.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expanded configuration flattens out upon being urged into contact with tissue surrounding the ostium of the branch vessel.

14. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein a distal-most turn of the expanded configuration has a diameter substantially the same as a diameter of the

interventional device encircled by the distal region, so as to retain the expanded configuration centered on the interventional device.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal region further comprises a radiopaque feature.

16. A method of locating an interventional device relative to the ostium of a branch vessel, comprising:

providing an interventional device;

providing an ostial locator device having an ostial locator wire;

attaching the ostial locator device to the interventional device so that an expandable section of a distal region of the ostial locator device is disposed at a selected location relative to a distal end of the interventional device;

advancing the ostial locator device and interventional device through a main vessel until the distal end of the interventional device is disposed in the vicinity of the branch vessel;

extending the ostial locator wire so that the expandable section of the ostial locator wire deploys to partially encircle the interventional device;

advancing the interventional device so that the distal end of the interventional device enters the branch vessel and the expandable section flattens out against tissue surrounding the ostium of the branch vessel.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein attaching the ostial locator device to the interventional device comprises applying a fastener to couple the ostial locator device to the interventional device.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein applying a fastener comprises wrapping a thin flexible sheet around the ostial locator device and the interventional device.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein applying a fastener comprises applying a clasp that engages the ostial locator device to the interventional device.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein extending the ostial locator wire so that an expandable section of the ostial locator wire deploys to partially encircle the interventional device comprises extending the ostial locator wire so that a diameter of the expandable section is larger than a diameter of the ostium of the branch vessel.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein providing an ostial locator device having an ostial locator wire further comprises providing an ostial locator device having an ostial locator wire with a radiopaque feature.

22. The method of claim 20 further comprising, during advancing the interventional device so that the distal end of the interventional device enters the branch vessel and the expandable section flattens out against tissue surrounding the ostium of the branch vessel, sensing an increase in resistance to further advancement of the interventional device.